



DuPuis Environmental Area

Partnerships offer dynamic youth field study, recreation programs

Enter here: ➡

Gate 2: Hike on the Florida National Scenic Trail.
Gate 3: Ride a horse through a bit of "old Florida."
Gate 5: Enjoy a program in the Visitor's Center.

All these activities, and more, are offered at the DuPuis Environmental Area amidst a diverse landscape of pine flatwoods, wet prairies, remnant Everglades marsh, and cypress domes.

CREDITS

WaterMatters is produced by the South Florida Water Management District's Department of Public Information to inform the public about District projects and programs. An internet version is also available in English and Spanish at www.sfwmd.gov

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
JO ANN HYRES

EDITOR
SUSAN BENNETT

MANAGING EDITOR
PATTI NICHOLAS

GRAPHIC ARTIST
ELLEN NEGLEY

PHOTOGRAPHER
PATRICK LYNCH

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
SUSAN BENNETT
GAIL IRWIN
JULIE LYONS
PATTI NICHOLAS
BARBARA ROSS

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
IZZY LOPEZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CAROL ANN WEHLE

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS
KEVIN MCCARTY, *CHAIR*
DELRAY BEACH

IRELA M. BAGUÉ, *VICE-CHAIR*
MIAMI

PAMELA BROOKS-THOMAS
LAUDERHILL

ALICE J. CARLSON
NAPLES

MICHAEL COLLINS
ISLAMORADA

NICOLÁS GUTIÉRREZ, JR., ESQ.
MIAMI

LENNART E. LINDAHL, P.E.
PALM CITY

HARKLEY R. THORNTON
ORLANDO

MALCOLM S. WADE, JR.
CLEWISTON

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

E-mail or call us with your comments and mailing list requests:

pnichola@sfwmd.gov or sbennett@sfwmd.gov
Toll Free in FL 1-800-432-2045

WaterMatters is recognized by the 2005 National Communicator Awards, Crystal Award of Excellence

Year 3, Issue 4

DuPuis is located in northwestern Palm Beach and southwestern Martin counties, just west of Indiantown.

The 22,000-acre property is owned by the South Florida Water Management District. But that's just the beginning of the story. "Successfully managing and offering a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities takes the work of many hands," said Fred Davis, the South Florida Water Management District's Land Stewardship Director.

A number of groups, such as the DuPuis Horsemen, the Florida Trail Association, and the DuPuis Advisory Council, help with developing and promoting suitable recreational opportunities. And the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission facilitates safe and responsible use of the property's fish and wildlife resources for the long-term benefit of hunters and other resource users.

Also, a partnership with Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies (CES) provides dynamic opportunities for youth and adults to attend programs and take part in field studies to enhance their outdoor experience. Whether visitors are from our big-city coastal areas or from our small western communities, all are equally amazed that such a treasure exists, and so nearby.

Saturday morning programs are typically offered at the DuPuis Visitors Center from September through March. "Our past topics have included the eagles at DuPuis, butterfly gardening, and archeological digs at on-site Indian mounds," says CES Educational Specialist Kim Kanter. The center also has an impressive display to delight the visitor.



Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District Representative Charles Lambert helps kids from our western communities learn about the earth's soil at the DuPuis Earth Day celebration in April.

Plant communities and wildlife found on the property are showcased.

The CES program is beneficial for both the District and local students. For the past several years, students from Roosevelt Middle School in West Palm Beach have become happy campers through a unique learning opportunity. CES provided the school with tents and camping equipment, and each year students show up at DuPuis to help with Earth Day events and camp overnight in the woods. "For many of them, it's the first time they have watched a campfire burn down or slept under the stars," says District Staff Environmental Analyst David Black.

"Our collaboration with CES and the various recreational groups has made a tremendous difference in being able to serve the public," Davis said. The District's responsibility also includes vegetation management and prescribed burns to keep the property in a natural-like state.

DuPuis is located at 23500 S.W. Kanner Highway, Canal Point, Florida. For activity and event information, call (561) 924-5310 or (800) 432-2045.

UPDATE Acceler8 Everglades Restoration

■ **CONSTRUCTION SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS:** The first annual *Acceler8* Construction Symposium and Exhibition was held June 23 in West Palm Beach. The all-day event attracted more than 500 construction contractors, specialty subcontractors, vendors, and work force development agencies interested in helping to build the *Acceler8* projects costing a total of \$1.5 billion throughout southern Florida. The symposium also provided information on the prequalification process for construction contractors and vendors for *Acceler8* contracts.

■ **C-44 (ST. LUCIE CANAL) RESERVOIR/STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA:** Purchase of a 12,000-acre parcel in Martin County was authorized for construction of an above-ground reservoir and stormwater treatment area (STA). The project will provide water storage for the C-44 basin, capture and clean stormwater runoff that flows into the Indian River Lagoon and improve the health of the ecosystem. The District, state and local government will share in the cost of the property.

■ **BASIS OF DESIGN REPORT DELIVERY:** Basis of Design Reports for Stormwater Treatment Area 2, Cell 4; Stormwater Treatment Area 6, Section 2; and Stormwater Treatment Area 5, Flow Way 3 are complete and have undergone technical, stakeholder and public review. Each project will move to the preliminary design phase.

■ **EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA RESERVOIR:** Phase I Test Cells were constructed and operated during a test period. The technical report documenting test cell performance is complete and will provide recommendations on seepage control, as well as embankment design to ensure success of the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir project. The reservoir will provide additional water storage in Palm Beach County and within the Everglades Agricultural Area.

Find out more
by visiting
ACCELER8
evergladesnow.org

Ask
Freddy!



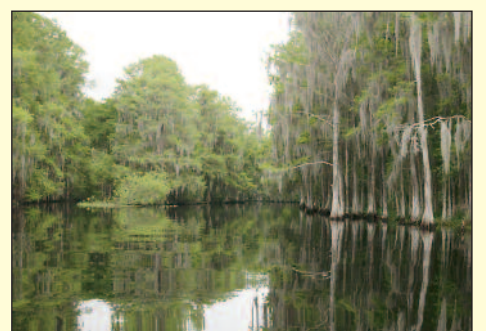
Question selected from District letters and emails received from the public.

❗ The pond in back of my townhouse is looking "yucky." Who is supposed to maintain it?

❗ "Yucky" for you, your pond is part of the neighborhood drainage system. It absorbs rainwater and helps filter out harmful nutrients and sediments. Your homeowners' association is responsible for maintaining it. However, residents can pitch in to help keep it clean.

With proper planting and maintenance, the pond will shimmer and teem with life. You might even see me take a dip! Removing unwanted perimeter plants by chemical spraying may harm beneficial plants. Also, routine use of chemical pesticides is unnecessary because, in general, nature can take pretty good care of itself.

If the pond is used for irrigation, practicing low-water or Xeriscape techniques will help protect it and sustain water levels. For a list of native low-water plants, you can request a copy of the District's landscaping guide called *WaterWise* by calling Izzy Lopez at (800) 432-2045, Ext. 2064 or email ilopez@sfwmd.gov. Additionally, you can refer members of your homeowners' association to your local Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension office for more comprehensive information.



ANSWER TO FIND FREDDY

shingle Creek!

Freddy the Friendly Alligator is cruising along Shingle Creek, where he put in his boat along the creek's west bank. The Marriott Trail entrance to the property is about one-half mile south from Central Florida Parkway on International Drive in Orlando. To learn more about recreational opportunities on South Florida Water Management District public lands, you can request our new Recreational Guide by calling (800) 432-2045, Ext. 6635 or emailing ilzell@sfwmd.gov.



South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road • West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-686-8800 • FL WATS 1-800-432-2045 • www.sfwmd.gov
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680 • West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

sfwmd.gov